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No. 53

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT).

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DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

May 3, 2000.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GIL GUTKNECHT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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PRAYER

The Rabbi Israel Zoberman, Congregation Beth Chaverim, Virginia Beach, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Our God of freedom and responsibility, Dear Legislators, at this sacred season of both remembrance and re-joicing, haunted by the Holocaust's vast tragedy, while inspired by the miracle of Zion restored, I humbly yet proudly stand before you, son of Polish survivors who was born in Kazakhstan in 1945, lived in a displaced persons' camp in Germany and raised in Haifa, Israel.

May we be mindful of our divine mandate to build a world community reflecting the universal God of love who embraces us all with Shalom's holy gifts of healing, hope and harmony.

Grateful for our Nation's essential leadership and sacrifice with Your own invaluable input, and my Congressman OWEN PICKETT's distinguished service, may we ever, one family, strive to be a blessing.

Let us say, Amen.

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THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

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PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

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MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 3642. An act to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Charles M. Schulz in recognition of his lasting artistic contributions to the Nation and the world.

H.R. 3707. An act to authorize funds for the construction of a facility in Taipei, Taiwan suitable for the mission of the American Institute in Taiwan.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a concurrent resolution of the following title in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 81. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the Government of the People's Republic of China should immediately release Rabiya Kadeer, her secretary, and her son, and permit them to move to the United States if they so desire.

The message also announced that pursuant to sections 276h-276k, of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the following Senators as members of the Senate Delegation to

the Mexico-United States Inter-parliamentary Group Meeting during the Second Session of the One Hundred Sixth Congress, to be held in Puebla, Mexico, May 5-7, 2000—

The Senator from Alaska (Mr. MURKOWSKI); and

The Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS).

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MAKING IN ORDER MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES ON TODAY

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time on Wednesday, May 3, 2000 for the Speaker to entertain motions to suspend the rules and pass the following bills:

H. Con. Res. 295, relating to continuing human rights violations and political oppression in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam 25 years after the fall of South Vietnam to Communist forces;

H. Res. 464, expressing the sense of Congress on international recognition of Israel's Magen David Adom Society and its symbol the Red Shield of David;

H. Con. Res. 304, expressing the condemnation of the continued egregious violations of human rights in the Republic of Belarus, the lack of progress toward the establishment of democracy and the rule of law in Belarus, calling on President Alyaksandr Lukashenka's regime to engage in negotiations with the representatives of the opposition and to restore the constitutional rights of the Belarusian people, and calling on the Russian Federation to respect the sovereignty of Belarus;

H.R. 3879, Sierra Leone Peace Support Act of 2000;

H. Res. 449, congratulating the people of Senegal on the success of the multi-party electoral process;

S. 2323, Worker Economic Opportunity Act;

H.R. 4055, IDEA Full Funding Act of 2000;

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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H2413

H.R. 1729, to designate the Federal facility located at 1301 Emmet Street in Charlottesville, Virginia, as the "Pamela B. Gwin Hall";

H.R. 1405, to designate the Federal building located at 143 West Liberty Street, Medina, Ohio, as the "Donald J. Pease Federal Building"; and

H.R. 1901, to designate the United States border station located in Pharr, Texas, as the "Kika de la Garza United States Border Station".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nevada?

There was no objection.

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FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, the Treasury Department recently announced that due to Congressional fiscal responsibility, it expects to reduce the national debt by a record \$216 billion this year.

Furthermore, this means that the national debt will have been reduced by \$350 billion or 10 percent in just 3 years.

The 2001 Republican budget continues this fiscal responsible trend.

Our budget will pay off more than \$1 trillion of the public debt over the next 5 years without raiding Social Security trust fund or bankrupting Medicare.

The Clinton administration, however, has proposed a budget full of new programs and additional bureaucracy, all funded from the projected surplus or new tax increases.

Mr. Speaker, we need to continue to reduce, not increase, wasteful spending on efficient government programs and bureaucracy.

Let us build upon our past successes and pass the budget that our children can be proud of and can afford when they grow up.

□

ELIAN GONZALEZ

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, it was with shock, disgust and outrage that I watched on TV over Easter weekend flack-jacketed government agents, acting like military commandoes armed with high-powered rifles breaking down doors, assaulting reporters, ransacking a private home and seizing an innocent child in the dark of night, while negotiations were ongoing, with something they called a search warrant. But the warrant they had was not based on a proper court order. It was based on an after-hours ex parte application that claimed Elian was being "concealed" and "unlawfully restrained."

The Justice Department should have waited until a judge had a chance to hold a hearing to determine if anyone

was in contempt of court. Only then would a court order have been appropriate. Why did they not follow that procedure? Because an earlier application by the Justice Department for such a court order had already been turned down.

So what did they do? They just broke into the home of an American citizen and seized him. For the executive branch to ignore a court ruling is a very dangerous precedent. So much for the rule of law. We have a constitutional system of checks and balances. Checks on the executive branch will only work if they are made to obey the courts. It was a bad day for America and a new low for this administration.

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INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTION

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to tell the story of Joseph Howard, whose child was abducted across international borders. His child is just one of 10,000 American children who have been abducted to foreign countries.

In 1994, Joseph Howard's wife took his child when he was at work and fled to Germany. Joseph notified the police and the FBI. Two months after the abduction, the German lower court issued an ex parte order granting temporary custody to the mother and informed Joseph 1 month later. The German lower court later confirmed custody to the mother and stated that "the father lives in the United States of America and is therefore no longer in a position to exercise his custody rights."

Joseph was not given access rights, but received a demand for child support. He appealed to German higher court, but the appeal was rejected. In April of 1998, Joseph was granted access rights to be exercised only in the office of the German Youth Authority and only after he surrendered his passport. Joseph has not seen his child since 1994.

Mr. Speaker, this kind of treatment of American parents and their children must stop. Signatories to the Hague Convention should uphold their agreement, and this House should urge them to do so.

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H.R. 4055, IDEA FULL FUNDING ACT OF 2000

(Mr. GARY MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask my colleagues to fulfill Congress' promise to fund special education at the 40 percent level that was promised in 1975.

For the past 25 years, Congress has consistently ignored its responsibility to special education students. The result has impacted all students in public schools throughout our Nation.

In Orange County, California, the special education funding shortfall now

exceeds \$70 million annually. Each year, local school boards face the inevitable question: What programs will be cut to meet our responsibility to educate students with special needs? The paradox is unfair. We have required these school districts to provide high quality services to a population with significant needs with only a fraction of the funds we promised.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the school districts which have struggled to balance the needs of all their students, I implore my colleagues to support H.R. 4055. This bill sets out a plan that will allow Congress to meet the 40 percent funding promise it made to all by 2010. If we fail to fulfill this commitment, we will continue to fail not only children with special needs, but all students in public schools.

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TRIGGER LOCKS ARE NOT THE ANSWER

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, on March 23 in my district a 12-year-old boy took a loaded gun to school. Thank God, no one was hurt. But guess what, Mr. Speaker. The gun had a trigger lock. The boy simply searched for and found the key and, bingo, the gun was at school.

So I checked out this trigger lock business and uncovered a General Accounting Office report that says trigger locks are only effective for children under 6 years of age.

Six-year-old criminals? Beam me up, Mr. Speaker.

I assure my colleagues, no 6-year-old will mug them at 3 o'clock in the morning. It is not about trigger locks. It is about enforcing the gun laws we already have.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back what is left of our decimated second amendment rights.

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TAX FREEDOM DAY COMES WAY TOO LATE FOR WORKING AMERICAN FAMILIES

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, today is Tax Freedom Day. Today is the day that working Americans for the first time this year can stop working for the government and begin working for themselves and for their own families. May 3, 5 months into the year, 124 days working for the government. Incredible.

Mr. Speaker, we have an obligation to those working American families to trim the size of big government and trim the size of their tax bills. Rather than picking up the tab for a host of government programs that simply refuse to die because the President and the Congress refuse to kill them, taxpayers should be able to spend their